

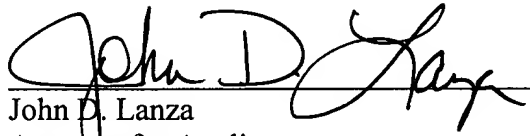
### CONCLUSION

Respectfully, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 10 is overcome and that claims 1, 6 and 10 are properly allowable. Consequently, Applicants further submit that claims 2-5, and 7-9 are allowable as each depends from an allowable base claim.

Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims in light of the foregoing Amendment and Response, and respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/8/00  
Reg. No. 40,060  
Tel. No. (617) 248-7604  
Fax No. (617) 248-7100

  
John D. Lanza  
Attorney for Applicants  
Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibeault, LLP  
High Street Tower  
125 High Street  
Boston, MA 02110